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Applicants:	Fenwick et al.	Docket No.:	16161
Serial No.:	10/022,863	T.C./A.U.:	3761
Confirmation No:	6252	Examiner:	Jacqueline F. Stephens
Filed:	December 12, 2001	Date:	April 6, 2004
For:	Mixed Denier Fluid Management Layers		

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response After Final Rejection Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and in response to the Office Action in which the Examiner **finally rejected** claims 1 - 21 and which was mailed on February 6, 2004, the following remarks are submitted for your consideration. These remarks are offered in order to either reduce or, at the least more clearly define, the differences between the Applicants' position and that of the Examiner.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Claims

Claims 1 – 5 and 7 - 21 are presented for Examiner Stephens' consideration.

Summary of Invention

This invention relates to a nonwoven surge material for personal care products which is made up of a homogeneous mixture of small and large denier fibers. The smaller or first denier fibers have an average denier of 1 or less and are at least 3 denier smaller than the larger or second denier fibers. The second denier fibers have an average denier between 4 and 15. The first denier fiber may be a bicomponent fiber which may be a sheath/core polyethylene/ polypropylene bicomponent fiber. The second denier fiber may be made from a polyester. This material may provide a reduction in skin hydration values by at least 8 percent, as measured by the TransEpidermal Water Loss (TEWL) testing procedure. Additionally, such a material can have an intake rate of at least 12 cc/sec